

sheep. We then here to cement custom.

Secondly, I want to express my satisfaction, and I believe that of all Americans, at the action taken by the Organization of American States at the Punta del Este conference.

Six resolutions, representing a six-point program, were passed by the conference early this morning. Not a single nation joined Cuba in voting against these resolutions. The twenty other nations at this conference joined in a vigorous declaration against communist penetration of this hemisphere in full support for the Alliance for Progress, and to expel Cuba from the Inter-American Defense Council.

For the first time, the independent American states have declared with one voice that the concept of Marxist-Leninism is incompatible with the Inter-American system and that they have taken explicit steps to protect the hemisphere's ability to achieve progress with freedom.

Comments on Stockpiling

The U.S. has an important announcement to make about the national stockpiling program. The purpose of this program over a period of several years has been to secure for future use thousands of materials which might be essential to the nation in the event of an emergency. After a review of this program upon assuming the responsibilities of office I was astonished to find that the total stockpile now amounts to some \$1,700,000 worth of material, an amount which is less than the total inventory of farm products and of more than half of our emergency stockpiles as presently determined to be nearly \$3,400,000,000.

In some cases the Government has acquired much more than it needs. For example, the value of the aluminum in this stockpile exceeds the amount of aluminum needed for three years in the event of war by \$247,000,000. The excess supply of nickel is \$160,000,000.

The Administration has taken steps to halt any further additions to the stockpile which would be an expense of about \$100,000,000 annually. That is, we are not going to add another \$100,000,000 of material to the surplus of other materials which is still growing at the rate of \$100,000,000 annually.

It is apparent to me that this excessive stockpiling of materials is a questionable burden on public funds and in addition a potential source of excessive and unnecessary profits.

In spring a detailed check was made. And the information to date has convinced me that a thorough investigation is warranted.

Secrecy in Stockpiling

One aspect of secrecy which has surrounded this program may have been justified originally to conceal our shortage, but this is no longer the case and secrecy now is only an invitation to mismanagement.

Administration to Head

I therefore, discussed this matter with Senator [Stuart] Symington, chairman of the Senate Stockpiling subcommittee. He agrees that the program should be completely reformed and that the delay I have assured him that we will make available to his subcommittee all the material we have already discovered and that in the future the Bureau will cooperate fully with any investigation.

In the meantime, I have directed the various departments and agencies to accelerate their review of the program's requirements, and I am appointing a commission to make a detailed review of our stockpiling policies, programs and goals in the event of changed defense strategy and improved technology.

I am very much aware of the intricate and interrelated problems involved in this program, including the difficulties experienced by certain domestic mineral industries, the impact on world markets and the heavy reliance on certain countries on producing one or more of these minerals.

And I can say that we will take no action which will disrupt commodity prices.

All of these facts are in a careful review of the program will be taken into account. But the full facts on this matter must be opened to the public.

We hope that as communications improve, that the problems which cause tension and danger to the world will lessen. The negotiations on these matters, however, of policy, are matters which are being conducted by the Ambassador [Edward R. Thorp] who, I believe, has a meeting with Foreign Minister [André A. Gromyko] tomorrow. I think that the third meeting, so-called, in regard to the matter of Berlin. We are hopeful that these will bring a happy result.

I believe that any exchange of information, any exchange of views, any exchange of any kind in these very hazardous times, is very useful. We're glad to welcome them.

And we are glad when they treat Americans as they do with courtesy when they visit Moscow.

Q Mr. President, in your statement on stockpiling, is there any implication of wrongdoing by an individual?

A I think that no, I'm not making any implication. The only thing I think that there is a need to know more money to be invested. I think the whole matter should be carefully looked into, contracts and all the rest, profits and so on.

Q Mr. President, could it make no statement other than to say it's a matter which leads itself to a careful scrutiny by Senator Symington's committee and Senator Symington is most anxious to initiate such an investigation which would be conducted over the next week and which we feel is overdue.

Q Mr. President, as we certainly wait, in answer to your question, on the investigation, would making any judgment?

Q Mr. President, have you any reaction to the failure of some of our neighbors to the south—I'm thinking of Argentina and Brazil—to go along with our way in our ambitions at Punta del Este? **A** No, I think that I've indicated what I consider to be a most significant fact, which is on the basis of the question of the compatibility of the Communist system with the Inter-American system. I think there was unanimity.

Q Some of the critics of your urban affairs plan charge that it's an invasion of states and local rights. Would you comment on that, and would you also comment on it in a larger frame of reference, what do you think of the argument that big government, so called, might not be able to do what state and local governments can do more efficiently in fulfilling their duties?

A With regard to the specific question on the urban plan, I believe that such a position would interfere with the states. In my opinion, it would supplement their efforts. There is a responsibility which the states have, and each city has, for certain important functions in the life of every citizen. With the Federal Government also has one.

There is a Department of Agriculture, which has contact with each individual farmer in the United States. That does not interfere with the county responsibility or the state responsibility. Now in the urban message I sent yesterday I pointed out that in the big cities, citizens pay 35 percent of the income taxes paid in the United States. They have increased problems which are increasing problems, particularly as our population increases by 3,000,000 a year.

I believe that these problems justify to place at the Cabinet table a place of citizens of the big cities. I'm interested in charges about big government, and then I receive a wire asking for the Federal Government to take over the operations of the New Haven Railroad. And we send a wire back to the state after having paid \$35,000,000 in maintaining that railroad, what action are the states prepared to take?

My experience usually is that these matters are put to the Federal Government by the request of cities, or states, or individual groups and that is a question of the Federal Government's mission to extend its role but rather that there is a need and no one responds to it and the way cannot be put further out beyond the state. **A** Yes, I will. [Laughter.]

Q Mr. President, A. Yes, I will. [Laughter.] **Q** Mr. President, A. Yes, I will. [Laughter.] **Q** Mr. President, A. Yes, I will. [Laughter.]

Q Mr. President, there

SOVIET GUESTS AT NEWS CONFERENCE: Aleksei I. Adzhubel, right, editor of *Izvestia*, at President Kennedy's news conference in Washington. Others with him are, from left, Mrs. Adzhubel, daughter of Premier Khrushchev; (Georgi Bolshakov, editor of magazine "U.S.S.R.," and Mrs. Pierre Salinger, wife of Presidential press secretary.

this political would threaten a settlement and also this situation in South Vietnam."

A Yes. Of course if the fighting and hostilities began, the hope of a settlement would be substantially diminished. We there was, however, no knowledge of any kind of offensive agreements. There is still disagreement over who shall hold particular Cabinet positions.

Q It is my understanding that there is scheduled to be a meeting at Punta del Este on Feb. 2 between these leaders of the various nations.

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of earnestness in the support of the U. N. by all nations."

A Yes. I think there is an obvious relationship between the amount that we purchase and the amount that other countries take. I think that we would not want to consider taking \$100,000,000 worth of the bonds. It was our hope that other countries would take \$100,000,000.

Q I think the Canadians have indicated a bond of \$7,000,000 and the French \$12,000,000. I think the Scandinavian countries have given me careful consideration of the situation. I think the World Bank has written to other governments that in answer to your question that a relationship obviously between what we could do and what others will do. I'm hopeful that both will meet their responsibilities in the matter.

Q Mr. President, in the debate just terminated in the Senate over the confirmation of John M. Coe as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a considerable body of opinion indicated that they were concerned about the supervision over C. I. A. Have you done anything to increase Executive supervision over the Central Intelligence Agency toward giving Congress a greater share over the supervision of C. I. A.

A Well, as you know, Congress has groups that have responsibility for the budget and they also provide—receive reports and confer and exercise supervision at the present time.

Secondly, I appointed General [Maxwell D.] Taylor some months ago to be my representative in regard to matters affecting intelligence and there are intergovernmental meetings in response to any activities that the C. I. A. might carry out with general supervision. I think that which has concerned me personally is increasingly so that those are the areas where there is control and I think that the areas where there is control as well as to Mr. Coe and the members of the C. I. A. to attempt to carry out their functions in a way that serves our interest, which I'm sure is their objective.

Q Mr. President, speaking of going to Moscow, could you tell us under what conditions you would accept an invitation to visit the Soviet Union?

A I would think that an invitation and acceptance of an invitation would probably be on the basis of the two sides with a mutual understanding and so that, for the present, of course, until we have significant breakthroughs, that kind of journey would probably not be considered useful by either country.

Q "Could you tell us whether you expect any difficulty in Congress with your Alliance for Progress program by reason of the opposition of some of the big American countries at the Punta del Este conference?"

A I think that I could probably, the Congress, of course, has to make that

judgment. In my opinion, the program is very essential. I think it was endorsed by twenty nations, the Alliance for Progress. This is a long struggle to improve the life of the people in this hemisphere. I think we must go ahead, and I'm confident that the members of the Congress who come back will have the same way as that what has happened recently, in my opinion, makes more desirable and essential the Alliance for Progress. That's where our effort ought to be, and that's what we consider the cause of freedom and I think the inter-hemisphere system best. So I'm hopeful Congress will agree.

Q Mr. President, A. Yes, Mr. Wicker [Tom Wicker of The New York Times].

Q Two network chiefs recently have expressed concern of government supervision of television programming. The F. C. C. [Federal Communications Commission] has denied any such intention. Can you foresee circumstances under which government supervision might become necessary or useful? **A** No, you mean of a different kind than we are talking about. I think that we have a relationship that will exist.

Q Over program content **A** No, I don't think, as you know, the Federal Communications Commission has certain regulations in regard to the percentage that will be in public service. Mr. Minow's [Newton N. Minow, F. C. C. chairman] has said that we are not going to force, but to use encouragement in persuading the networks to put better children's programs, more public service programs. I don't know that there is any, and I don't know of anyone—and Mr. Minow's already denied considering changing the basic relationship which now exists.

Q Mr. President, in a question which was asked in the House of Representatives, Mr. [Averell] Harriman in town with his opposite Soviet number in order to get the cooperation of the Soviet Union in the Vietnam peace talks. Do you think that the Soviet Union will agree to such an arrangement?

A Mr. Harriman, the Assistant Secretary of State, has indicated, as has the State Department, that there are great changes in both sides in a resumption of hostilities. And we are making every effort to attempt to get an accord before the end of the year. It appears to be strained somewhat after many months, to try to get an accord before we have a breakdown in the negotiations, and that is true of both sides.

Q Mr. President, first year the Administration put forward no civil rights legislation. Now the Administration has submitted a bill on housing and voting rights. Do you think that the Administration will be able to get the necessary support in Congress to pass such legislation?

A I think that my State Department colleagues and I would comment on the various bills of which there are a great many that have been introduced. And that's what Secretary of Labor [J. Edgar] Goldberg has endorsed "in principle" in the F. E. P. C. [Fair Employment Practices Commission] bill. Does this mean the Administration has suddenly decided to go further on the legislative route in civil rights field?

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Q "Cold War"—He welcomed expressions of views with the Russians but indicated that he wanted a policy breakthrough rather than just an improvement in the international atmosphere before considering a summit meeting. [Questions 11 and 20.]

Cuba—He expressed satisfaction with the vote of the Organization of American States to exclude Cuba and with its statement that communism was alien to the hemisphere. [Opening statement.]

Television—He said he knew of no one in the Government who wanted to use the Federal Communications Commission to control the content of television programs. [Question 13.]

in short enough supply that we are continuing those purchases, but that we are not of major proportions though they are, in this case, significant.

18 Q Mr. President, they told us you took a cab ride to the house across from your house last night at Lafayette Square to inspect it. In connection with that you are familiar with the old Reliance Theatre on Lafayette Square which now houses the United Services Organization home for the thousands of enlisted military people in the form of a hotel that you know, is going to be torn down. Does the Government, and specifically you, as Commander in Chief, have any plan to place these people in a suitable place?

A The U. S. O. Well, I'm sure we'll be delighted to cooperate with the U. S. O. in getting satisfactory facilities for them.

We last night I was looking at the question of the building next to Blair House and whether that ought to come down or whether the building whether that ought to come down or whether there should be planted there. And I thought that in agreement with the Fine Arts Commission, the building should be planted there. [Laughter.]

19 Q—What effect do you believe the most recent collapse of the nuclear-test-ban negotiations with the Soviet Union will have on the possibilities of a test ban in the coming March 14 Geneva disarmament talks and with this collapse have any effect on your decision if any to resume nuclear tests?

A—Well, no progress was being made on developing a test ban which would have adequate inspection and therefore the test should be moved into the general disarmament conference, which begins on the fourteenth.

This failure, as I said somewhat earlier, represents the biggest test of my first year in office and continues to be a disappointment because every action here, as I say, breeds a response and we are having been anxious from the beginning to get an agreement which would prohibit tests with an adequate inspection.

Q—The position "have" been able to adjust that satisfactorily. Therefore it will put an additional burden and an additional opportunity before the disarmament conference. Do you think, of course, our failure to get an agreement does increase the likelihood of various countries testing. That's one of the reasons why I was anxious that we get an agreement.

Q Mr. President, on this question of the changed atmosphere between the United States and the Soviet Union of late, just to set the record straight, is it fair to say that the number of atmospheres, or is there, in any of the negotiating issues, across the board, any indication of the possibility of an agreement?

A I would say that on the question of Laos, that there has been evidence of a desire by the Soviet Union and the United States to get the agreement along the lines suggested by Chairman Khrushchev and myself last June.

On the question of Berlin and Germany, I don't think that significant progress as yet has been made. But I do think, as I've said, that the means of communication and the channels of communication would be a wide open, which has been a basic premise of ours for the last few months; which is the reason that Ambassador Thompson was so important in our lives, as we see every day.

Q Mr. President, independent oil producers have urged you to take action quickly over before completion of the Ellis [Frank B. Ellis, head of the Office of Emergency Planning] study to reduce oil imports. Now this week the independents are urging Congress to write into your trade program a provision that would require about 250,000 barrels daily and limiting them in the future to 14 per cent of domestic crude oil production. Do you think that the domestic oil industry is receiving any relief from Executive action in the near future, and do you favor tightening of import controls on oil by such legislation?

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worth more than \$100,000 less than the record price at the auction. The carrier had never had a plan to carry a plane was built in 1945 and was converted into a small carrier in 1951.

In regard to legislation, I'm not familiar with this proposal. It's the first I've heard about it. There is, of course, obvious difficulties traditionally in attempting to impose quota restrictions on various commodities in any kind of trade legislation because one begets another, and we can find ourselves with a series of limitations and exclusions which is the reason, I think, that Franklin Roosevelt originally came forward with the reciprocal trade program. But we are—very much aware of the concern, the fact that in some of our states that the wells are down to ten or eleven days a month and that this is a matter of serious concern to a good many Americans.

I'll have to leave it at that at the present time because the time is not complete, and I'd have to examine the legislation other than my general comments on it.

22 Q—Mr. President, to go back to the Urban Affairs Department, the Republican Party in the Urban Affairs Division politics last week, you said that you would like to have Mr. Robert Weaver, a distinguished Negro, to head the department. The press accused you of injecting the race issue into this whole matter. Would you care to comment?

A—No, I merely said in response to a question it was quite obvious that Mr. Weaver is the very successful, able head of the—by far the largest division which would be the head of the Urban Affairs Division (the Housing and Home Finance Agency). It was well rumored that Mr. Weaver would be appointed to the post of head of the Urban Affairs Division. It was well known on the Hill. The American people might as well know it.

23 Q—Congressman [Bruce] Alger [Republican of Texas] today criticized Mr. Ashinger as "young and inexperienced White House publicist."

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News Conference in Brief

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—Following are the highlights of President Kennedy's news conference today:

Stockpiling—He called for a Congressional investigation of the national stockpiling program, which he said was excessive and a potential source of "unconscionable profits." [Opening statement.]

"Cold War"—He welcomed expressions of views with the Russians but indicated that he wanted a policy breakthrough rather than just an improvement in the international atmosphere before considering a summit meeting. [Questions 11 and 20.]

Cuba—He expressed satisfaction with the vote of the Organization of American States to exclude Cuba and with its statement that communism was alien to the hemisphere. [Opening statement.]

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PRESIDENT LAUDS SOVIET CONTACTS

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

every action breeds a response, and the collapse of the test-ban talks in Geneva "increases the likelihood" of testing by various countries. [Question 19.]

This appeared to be an indication that the United States was near the point of resuming nuclear tests in the atmosphere.

The President emphasized that open channels of communication between Moscow and Washington can lessen "the chance of danger" and he promised to explore every line of communication. Matters of substance and what a questioner called "atmospherics" are different things, Mr. Kennedy conceded, but he added that "atmospherics" can be very important in our lives, as we see every day.

Adzhubel's Luncheon Guests
"Atmospheric relations" between the two countries appear to have been warmed by a three-hour White House luncheon yesterday for the Adzhubel family and another luncheon meeting to follow between them and the President's brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

The Kennedy sessions are to be followed in the spring by a visit to Moscow by Pierre Salinger, the White House press secretary, and possibly, in the unexpired future, a visit by the President's General Counsel, Ramsey Clark. President Kennedy left the impression today that his purpose in these exchanges was the opening of more channels of communication. Apparently, he also made clear to Mr. Adzhubel the areas in which he would look for conciliatory Soviet moves.

Mr. Kennedy opened the news conference by welcoming Mr. Adzhubel both as editor of *Izvestia*, the official Soviet Government newspaper, and as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, or that "combines two professions of politics."